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Letter dated 18 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council the incident that took place on the southern side of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) on the Korean Peninsula on 4 August 2015, which seriously injured two soldiers from the Republic of Korea who were on a routine patrol.

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Command, after conducting a joint investigation of the incident, announced on 10 August that the incident was caused by the explosion of three wooden box land mines that North Korea had placed along the patrol route of the Republic of Korea DMZ guards. The special investigation team of the United Nations Command that was set up to examine the incident included representatives of the Republic of Korea, the United States, New Zealand and Colombia, and the investigation was observed by Swiss and Swedish members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

The investigation result concluded that, judging from their fragments, the mines were those that are typically used by the North Korean People's Army. In addition, it determined that the mines were planted not long ago, ruling out the possibility that they were legacy mines which had drifted from another location owing to flooding or shifting soil.

This act of provocation by North Korea constitutes a clear violation of the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement and the 1992 Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-aggression and Exchanges and Cooperation between the South and the North. Such an act would undermine the peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond.

It is regrettable that North Korea has responded with yet another act of provocation to the Republic of Korea's repeated calls to engage in dialogue, thereby dashing the aspirations of the Korean people to build peace and prosperity across the Korean Peninsula.

The Government of the Republic of Korea strongly urges North Korea to refrain from further provocations and renounce its nuclear programme, which can only deepen its international isolation, and instead choose the path of dialogue and cooperation.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Oh** Joon
Permanent Representative

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